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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

-- For umbrellas having individual pivotal connections between the upper rib and lower strut ~~assembly~~ assemblies, the unbalanced nature of the movement at the pivot point in relation to the upper and lower central hubs causes unnecessary wear on the pivot junction as well as to the static wire or rigid line which connects the canopy rib assembly to the central hub[[s]]. This wear is undesirable and is aggravated over time by the stresses of both man and nature.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- For umbrellas having individual pivotal connections between the upper rib and lower strut ~~assembly~~ assemblies by means of a vertically configured bracket individually, the existing brackets protrude over the top of the canopy assembly providing a point of friction between the fabric of the canopy and the rigid protrusion of the pivot brackets. This creates excessive wear on a fabric canopy and often creates holes in the fabric canopy.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 25